

Message Text

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13

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

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R 021015Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5502

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, MT, UK

SUBJ: MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS

REF: VALLETTA 0795

1. MALTA LABOR PARTY AND GENERAL WORKERS UNION JOINTLY HELD WELL ATTENDED CELEBRATIONS IN VALLETTA ON MAY DAY. MAJOR THEMES WERE MLP-GWU SOLIDARITY AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE LABOR GOVERNMENT.
2. THE PARADE INCLUDED A NUMBER OF FLOATS REPRESENTING SUCH GOM ACCOMPLISHMENTS AS AIR MALTA, SEA MALTA, ETC., WHILE OTHERS PRAISED MLP-GWU TOGETHERNESS, PIONEER CORPS' ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND UNITY OF WORKERS AND INTELLECTUALS. A LARGE OPEN BED TRUCK CARRIED MLP AND GWU LEADERS, INCLUDING PRIME MINISTER MINTOFF AND GWU SEC GEN GENERAL AGUIS.
3. COMPARED TO SIMILAR LABOR CELEBRATIONS IN THE PAST, PHYSICAL VIOLENCE WAS MINIMAL, ALTHOUGH THE POLICE HAD DIFFICULTY KEEPING LABORITES FROM ENTERING THE VALLETTA NATIONALIST CLUB, THE STATUE OF

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QUEEN VICTORIA IN CENTRAL VALLETTA WAS DRAPED

WITH A RED FLAG, AND DURING THE PREVIOUS NIGHT
THE NATIONALIST CLUB IN NEARBY FLORIANA HAD ITS
DOORS PAINTED RED.

4. COMMENT: THE STRONG PUBLIC SHOWING OF MLP-GWU
SOLIDARITY, ALTHOUGH MASKING DISSATISFACTION AMONG
MANY MLP AND GWU SUPPORTERS, MUST HAVE BEEN MOST
SATISFYING TO MINTOFF. THE STATEMENT ON SPECIFIC
GOM-HMG AGREEMENTS MINTOFF PROMISED TO DELIVER ON
MAY DAY (SEE REFTTEL) WAS NOT MADE, AND TO OUR
KNOWLEDGE, NO SPEECHES WERE MADE DURING THE FESTIVITIES.
GETZ

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